

MST-2322.1

PATENT

1-3003

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Farrell et. al.

Serial No.: 09/549,036

Group Art Unit: 1743

Filed: April 13, 2000

Examiner: D. Handy

For: Variable Rate Particle Counter  
and Method of UseSubmission Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114

Sir:

In conjunction with the Amendment below, the applicant submits the request for extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136 to respond to the Office Action of November 2, 2001.

Please rewrite claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) A method for determining a characteristic of a sample comprising the steps of:

31 delivering a sheath fluid into a conduit having a nozzle located centrally therein, said sheath fluid flowing at a variable sheath volumetric rate so as to create a laminar flow sheath stream;

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GROUP 1700